

No. 4432 號三十三百四千四第 日三十月二十年未辛治同 HONGKONG, MONDAY, 22ND JANUARY, 1873. 一拜禮 號二十二月正英 港香 [PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH.]

Lading to the undersigned for countersignature, and take delivery of their goods from Cargo's side.

Cargo obstructing the discharge will be loaded and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

Consignees of Gunpowder will please take immediate delivery, to enable the vessel to come on a berth to discharge, otherwise the powder will be stored at their risk and expense.

JOHN BURD & Co.,
Agents.

107, Hongkong, 18th January, 1872.

The Chronicle and Directory for 1872.

NOW READY.

THIS Work, now in the TENTH year of the existence, is ready for delivery. It has been compiled and published by the Daily Press Office, as usual from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1872" will be further augmented by the introduction of a Chronological plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE REAK.

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS.

(Designed expressly for this Work.)
MAPS.—OF HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, AND THE COAST OF CHINA.

Besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The Directory will be published in Two Forms, Complete at \$5.00, with the Lists of Residents, Port Directories, Maps, &c., at \$8.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily Press Office, or to the following Agents:

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The delivery of this Daily Press from this office commences on Saturday morning at 10.10, and the last message left the office at 10.10.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 23rd, 1872.

REVERTING to the consideration of Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK's evidence upon the Opium question, we have now to notice the nature of the facts upon which his general conclusions were founded. It has already been shown, that the views which he deduced from those conclusions were inconsistent in themselves, and did not warrant the line of action which he adopted in his negotiations, and it will also be apparent that the actual facts as by Sir RUTHERFORD's own admission, insufficient to lead in any way to the generalizations which he made the ground work of his action.

Three points are set forth in a perfectly clear light, which it may be fairly considered place Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK entirely in the wrong; first, that we are not responsible for the Opium traffic in China; secondly, that the foreign trade in the Drug is not sufficiently extended to work any very extensive injury; and, lastly, that the injuriousness of Opium has been very greatly exaggerated.

With regard to the first point, it is somewhat surprising to find that the British Minister for the first time avows the fact that the consumption of Opium in China dates back to a period anterior to that at which Europeans had intercourse with the country, only in consequence of some remarks made by Mr. HOBSON, Acting Commissioner of Customs at Hankow, which go to show that there is a native habit which precludes the Opium as consumed in China a hundred and thirty years ago. The fact is, there is abundant testimony to prove that as far back as we can remember Opium has been brought into China from India, and the present day, it is brought across the borders into Yunnan by the old route. The Opium cry, is simply raised as that which is to be believed against foreigners, just as the Missionary cry is being raised at the present time. A feeling has always existed in China against Opium, on account of its being abused, just as there is a strong feeling at home about gin and brandy, but it is clear that it would be as impossible and probably as unjustifiable to put down the one as the other. Whether the Chinese Government have made any bona fide effort to do so is not clear; but it is certain that they never have succeeded in preventing the consumption of the Drug, which is a habit not dating from the time of the advent of foreigners but which has, there is every reason to believe, existed for centuries, and is undoubtedly established as being in existence a century before we traded with China.

The next point that is clearly set forth in the evidence is that neither the quantity nor the price of the foreign Opium could produce the wide spread disaster, which is attributed to it, even if it were in every way as injurious as it has been represented to be. It is proved by the force of actual figures that not more than three or four millions of people out of the 300 to 400 millions of the inhabitants of China can be in any possibility consume foreign Opium except in infinitesimally small quantities—not by any means such as to cause injury; and, in fact, that the consumption might be increased "almost ad infinitum—three, four, or five fold, and still leave the body of the nation unaffected." Sir RUTHERFORD, after all his eloquence concerning the virtuous indignation of the Pekin authorities—indignation as intense that it could not be satisfied as a loss figure than \$500,000 per annum additional duty, is constrained to admit that the amount of foreign Opium imported is infinitely short of that required to produce the effects attributed to it; while it is also conclusively shown that the expense of indulging in foreign Opium must produce the large bulk of the people from doing so.

Lastly, upon the question of the perniciousness of the drug, Sir RUTHERFORD, as already shown, completely justifies himself, and is compelled to admit that it is not injurious in moderation; and, finally, that he has always had a conviction that a craving for something of a stimulant or narcotic nature is universal, and that the very fact of this passion for Opium being found to exist so greatly among the Chinese shows that there

is a want for it dependent upon causes which we cannot understand.

These facts being proved from Sir RUTHERFORD's own testimony, it became very easy work for the Committee to demolish the whole of the theory which he so carefully superimposed upon them at the opening of his evidence. "So that," says Mr. STANLEY DOWNS, "by attempting to effect, through legislation any sudden or great change in the Opium consumption in China, we might unwittingly be doing as much harm as good."

"Quite so," says Sir RUTHERFORD, "that it would utterly fail; it must fail, and in the most place all sudden revolutions of that kind must affect capital and industry, and could not fail to be a great evil." And yet though Sir RUTHERFORD admits that a sudden suppression of the traffic would probably do as much harm as good even if possible, he is belittled himself behind the word "and," and so thinks he may himself from utter confusion in having set about measures which are proved by his own testimony to be impracticable for the gradual suppression of the trade. The objection, however, suggested by Mr. STANLEY DOWNS applies equally to a rapid or a gradual suppression. It is simply that, though Opium consuming may be an evil in excess, it is not in moderation, and that even if the whole trade could be put down—which it is proved could not be accomplished—there is every likelihood that more evil than good would be produced.

Thus, then, we find that although Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK knew enough to be fully aware of the erroneous nature of the Chinese objections to the traffic, he nevertheless allowed those objections to influence him to the extent of his being willing to give them \$500,000 a year more duty to overcome them. The Chinese, on the other hand, showed how little their moral speculations are attached to the moral aspect of the question by allowing their scruples to vanish in sight of the increased revenue. Strictly in the face of these facts it must be clear, that from beginning to end, the negotiation was simply a bargain—whether we would pay so much duty for so much facility of trade in contravention of the duty of the nation, and that Sir RUTHERFORD got considerably the worst of the bargain, not so much because he agreed to pay the extra twenty-two shillings, as because, having agreed to do so, he failed to obtain any guarantee from the Chinese authorities that they would not encourage the growth of the traffic, by placing more and more restrictive inland duties upon foreign Opium. If they decided that we should assist them by collecting the larger duty at the ports, it was surely reasonable to ask in return that they should guarantee that prohibitive duties should not be imposed inland. It was to his failure on this point that the merchants objected more than to the actual extra duty; and when the subject is directed of the transactions with which it has been mixed up, and is looked upon in a plain business-like light, it surely cannot be held that this objection was either unreasonable or unnecessary.

The Government Gazette of Saturday announced that Mr. HOBSON had been appointed Judge's clerk, vice Mr. W. L. Teller, resigned.

This evening, the Choral Society will, according to their announcement, give the Concert which was unavoidably postponed from last Monday, in aid of the Chinese Hospital. We make no doubt that they will have a full house.

We understand that the Ordinance for the suppression of street cries, and other nuisances, will be brought forward to the next session of the Legislative Council, so that the Colony will be well rid of these terrible inflictions before next hot season.

We understand that Inspector Grey, who went to England to procure forty men for the Hongkong Police Force, left England on the 22nd December, with twenty-eight of the men, and that the other twelve proceeded by sea, and will be here by the next steamer.

A serious party accident took place on Saturday. Two gentlemen were driving in a basketry along the Prater Road, at about 5.30 p.m. when they were overtaken by a horse-drawn carriage, and the basket overturned, and the two gentlemen were injured. The horse was killed, and the carriage was damaged. The two gentlemen were taken to the hospital, and the horse was buried.

It is reported that there will be some changes in the arrangements of the Court-house, which some of the inconveniences at present experienced will be removed; the idea apparently being to associate the mode of proceeding in the Court-house with the mode of proceeding in the Court, and to have the Court-house as a place of business, and not as a place of amusement.

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LATE TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS TELEGRAMS.

"Supplied to THE 'DAILY PRESS'."

London, 13th January, 1872.

The contract for laying the new Atlantic Cable has been signed.

A body of Republicans invaded a Loyalist meeting at Knightsbridge, and after having expelled the Chairman, retired singing the Marseillaise.

The Dutch Rijk-Orator has adopted the Treaty defining Dutch Guiana to England.

Hongkong, 13th January, 1872.

Police Intelligence.

January 20th.

Before C. MAG. ESQ.

THE EXTORTION CASE.

The two Jukons, Lee-nam and Mow-ling, charged with attempting to extort \$200 from a girl and a woman, when going on board a ship, were brought before the Magistrate.

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